REIGN OF THE SUPERMEN!
SUPERMAN IN ACTION COMICS
688
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1993
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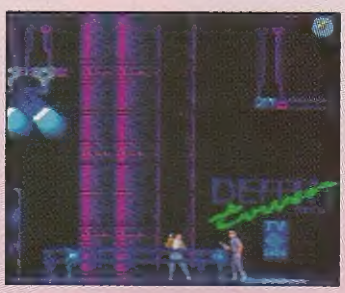
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
GUY GARDNER
CHOOSES SIDES!
BY STERN, GUICE & RODIER

The First CD-ROM Game in a Cartridge!

FLASHBACK
THE QUEST FOR IDENTITY™

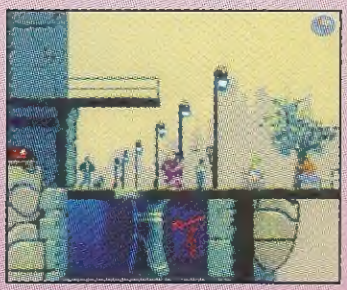
12 MEG

Planet Titan: *It's a jungle out there. Filled with mutants, antimatter fields and other weird stuff.*



Death Tower: *In a futuristic gladiator battle, it's a fight to the finish against replicants.*

Paradise Club: *You sniff out the aliens' bizarro plans but now they're on to you dude.*



Earth: *Oops! Your identity is uncovered. Now robot cops want to pulverize you.*

Planet Morphs: *Surprise! You show up at the aliens' HQ. They don't look happy.*

Available for Sega™ Genesis™

Flashback – the first game ever to pump awesome high-octane CD ROM performance from a cartridge. The action screams along at 24 frames-per-second. Just like movie animation. And after each level, the game moves along with animated sequences that are straight out of Hollywood. Excellent!

The Plot? You play the part of Conrad Hart, a GBI agent in training. You stumble on a bizarre alien plot to conquer the earth. Now you've got to outwit and combat droves of replicants, deadly aliens, traps and other stuff too weird for words. No problem for a pro like you...NOT!

Still not convinced? Then check it out at your local game habitat. Flashback – it's like putting your Genesis into warp drive.

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AN EYE FOR AN EYE

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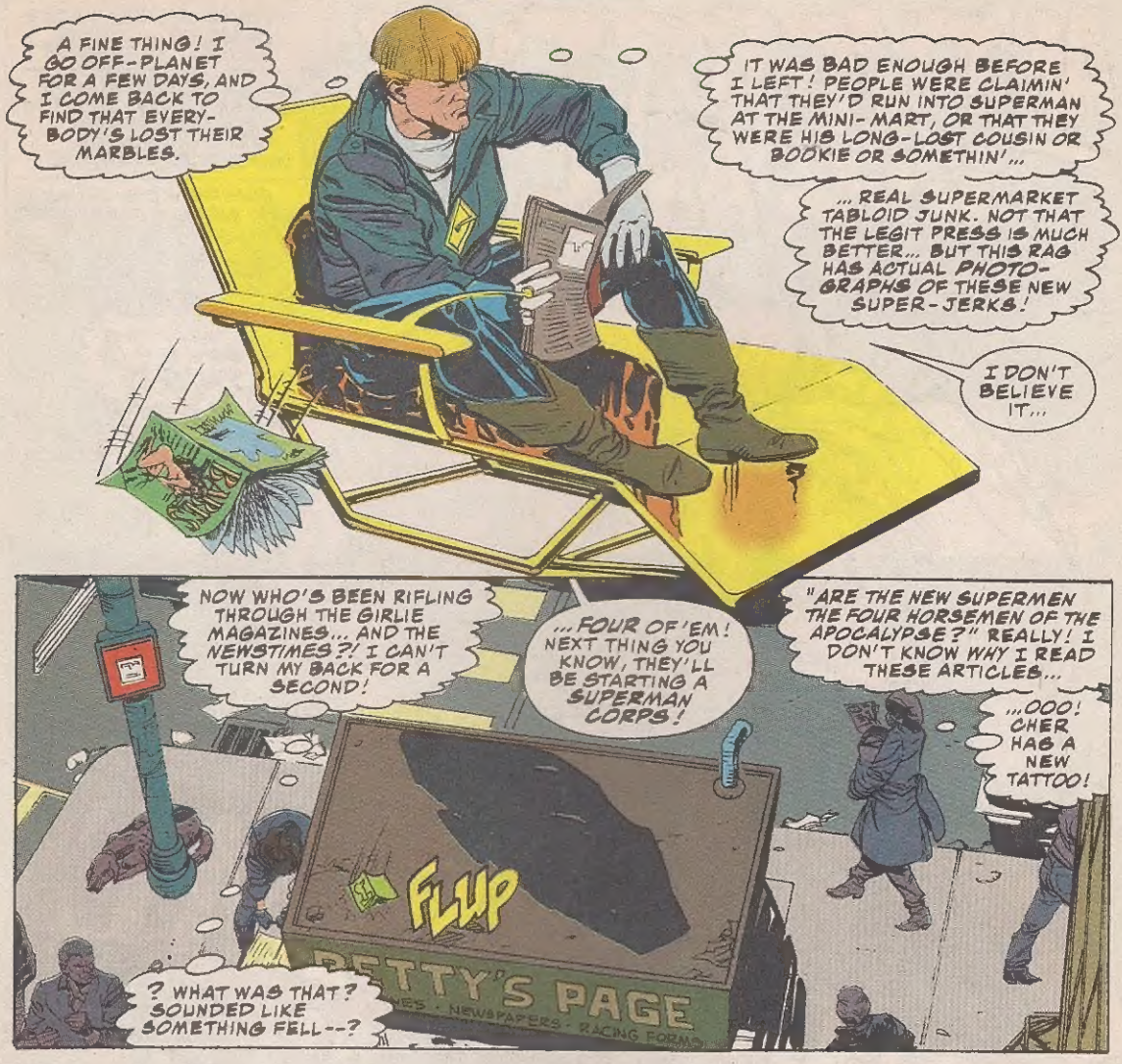
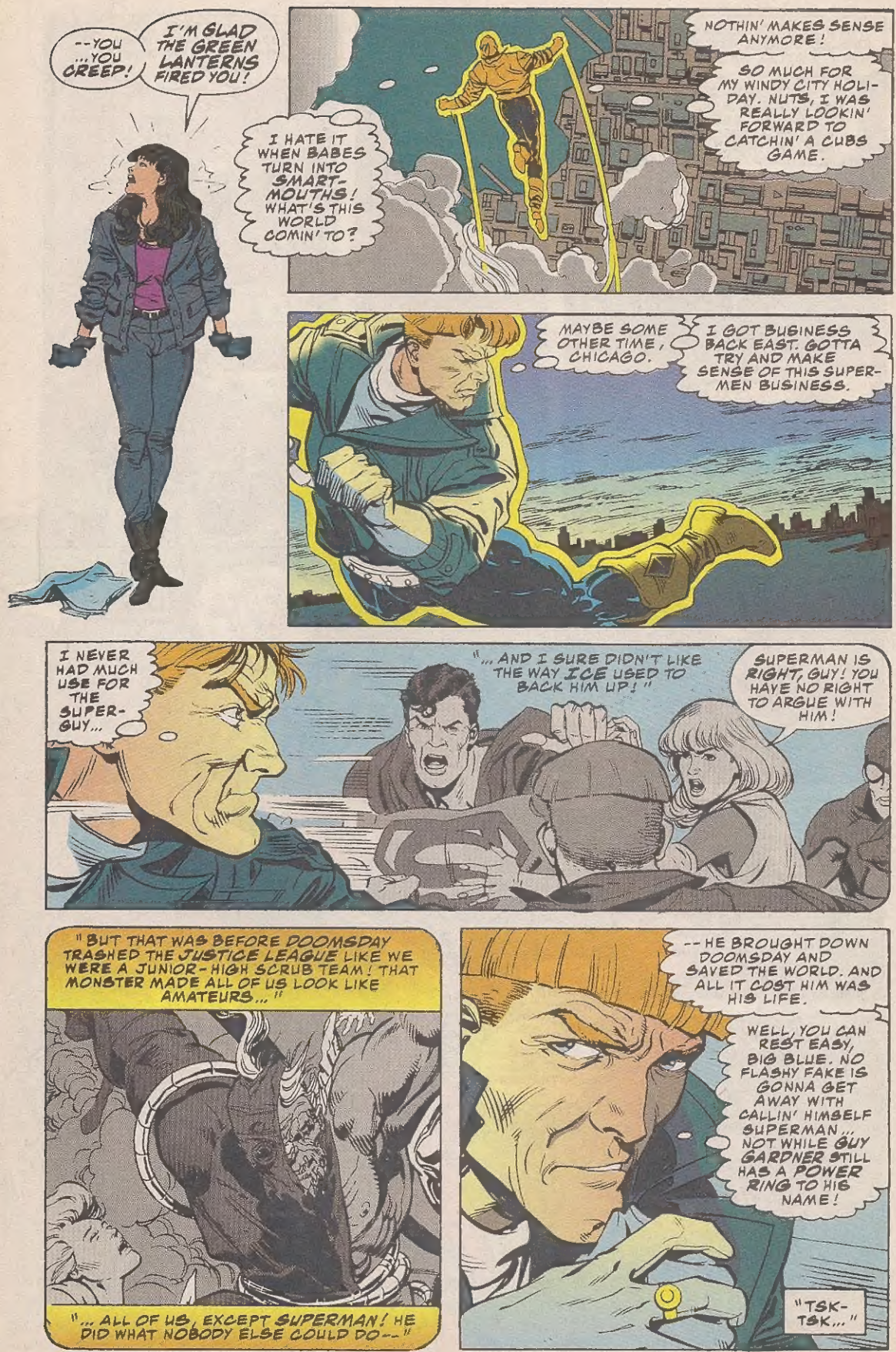

A FINE THING! I GO OFF-PLANET FOR A FEW DAYS, AND I COME BACK TO FIND THAT EVERY-BODY'S LOST THEIR MARBLES.
IT WAS BAD ENOUGH BEFORE I LEFT! PEOPLE WERE CLAIMIN' THAT THEY'D RUN INTO SUPERMAN AT THE MINI-MART, OR THAT THEY WERE HIS LONG-LOST COUSIN OR BOOKIE OR SOMETHIN'...
... REAL SUPERMARKET TABLOID JUNK. NOT THAT THE LEGIT PRESS IS MUCH BETTER... BUT THIS RAG HAS ACTUAL PHOTO-GRAPHS OF THESE NEW SUPER-JERKS!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT...

NOW WHO'S BEEN RIFLING THROUGH THE GIRLIE MAGAZINES... AND THE NEWSTIMES?! I CAN'T TURN MY BACK FOR A SECOND!
... FOUR OF 'EM! NEXT THING YOU KNOW, THEY'LL BE STARTING A SUPERMAN CORPS!
"ARE THE NEW SUPERMEN THE FOUR HORSEMEN OF THE APOCALYPSE?" REALLY! I DON'T KNOW WHY I READ THESE ARTICLES...
...OOO! CHER HAS A NEW TATTOO!
FLUP
? WHAT WAS THAT? SOUNDED LIKE SOMETHING FELL--?

IF ANYBODY COULD CHEAT DEATH, IT'D BE SUPERMAN. BUT HOW COULD PEOPLE ACCEPT THESE NEW GOOFS AS--?
HEY, RING-MAN! HOW ABOUT PAYING FOR THAT?

YOU TALKIN' TO ME?
YEAH, I'M TALKIN' TO YOU, MR. SUPER-HERO! THIS'S NOT A LIBRARY!
IF YOU WANT TO READ THE MAGAZINE, BUY IT FIRST!

NO, THANKS. YOU CAN KEEP IT!
WHU--?! HEY--


--YOU ...YOU CREEP!
I'M GLAD THE GREEN LANTERNS FIRED YOU!
I HATE IT WHEN BABES TURN INTO SMART-MOUTHS! WHAT'S THIS WORLD COMIN' TO?
NOTHIN' MAKES SENSE ANYMORE!
SO MUCH FOR MY WINDY CITY HOLIDAY. NUTS, I WAS REALLY LOOKIN' FORWARD TO CATCHIN' A CUBS GAME.
MAYBE SOME OTHER TIME, CHICAGO.
I GOT BUSINESS BACK EAST. GOTTA TRY AND MAKE SENSE OF THIS SUPERMEN BUSINESS.
I NEVER HAD MUCH USE FOR THE SUPER-GUY...
"... AND I SURE DIDN'T LIKE THE WAY ICE USED TO BACK HIM UP!"
SUPERMAN IS RIGHT, GUY! YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO ARGUE WITH HIM!
"BUT THAT WAS BEFORE DOOMSDAY TRASHED THE JUSTICE LEAGUE LIKE WE WERE A JUNIOR-HIGH SCRUB TEAM! THAT MONSTER MADE ALL OF US LOOK LIKE AMATEURS..."
"... ALL OF US, EXCEPT SUPERMAN! HE DID WHAT NOBODY ELSE COULD DO--"
--HE BROUGHT DOWN DOOMSDAY AND SAVED THE WORLD. AND ALL IT COST HIM WAS HIS LIFE.
WELL, YOU CAN REST EASY, BIG BLUE. NO FLASHY FAKE IS GONNA GET AWAY WITH CALLIN' HIMSELF SUPERMAN... NOT WHILE GUY GARDNER STILL HAS A POWER RING TO HIS NAME!
"TSK-TSK..."

...YOU'D THINK SUCH A WELL-HEELED PLACE WOULD SPRING FOR A BETTER SECURITY SYSTEM!
NO ULTRASONICS, NO HEAT SENSORS, NO ELECTRIC EYES... AND THIS THE MAIN BRANCH! IT'S ALMOST INSULTING!
THAT ALARM BOX WAS SO OLD, I'LL BET IT WAS INSTALLED DURING THE TRUMAN ADMINISTRATION!
METROPOLIS MERCANTILE BANK
~ESTABLISHED 1875~
I WAS BYPASSING CIRCUITS LIKE THAT BEFORE MY VOICE CHANGED!
THEY MIGHT AS WELL HAVE LEFT THE DOOR UNLOCKED!
METROPOLIS MERCANTILE BANK
I ALMOST FEEL LIKE LEAVING A THANK-YOU NOTE. NAH, THAT WOULD BE CRUEL!
♪I'M CUT-TING A HOLE WHERE THE SAFE IS THIN--♫
♪--AND WHEN... MY HAND... GOES WANDERING...♪
KLIK-KL-K-KLAK!!
YES!
TUMBLERS FELL INTO PLACE LIKE SOLDIERS IN A ROW.
YOU'RE ALL MINE NOW.
TIME TO MAKE THAT BIG WITHDRAWAL!
SORRY. BUSINESS HOURS ARE NINE TO FOUR.
GWAA!
N-NO... N-NOT YOU!!

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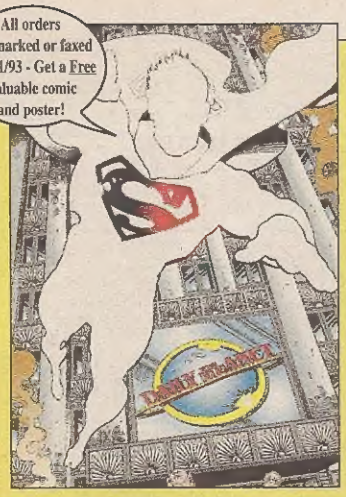

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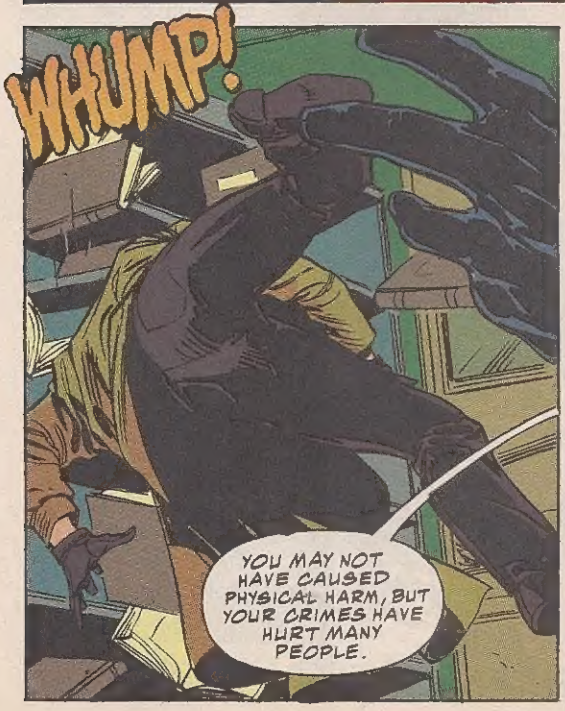
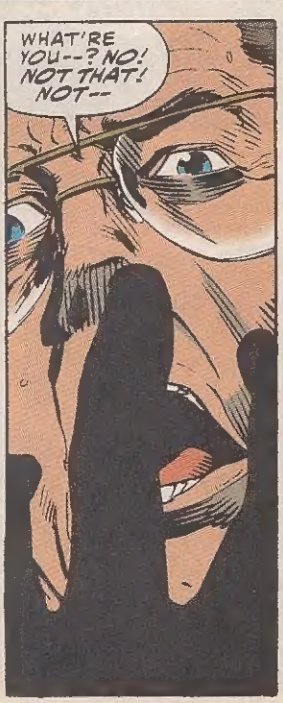
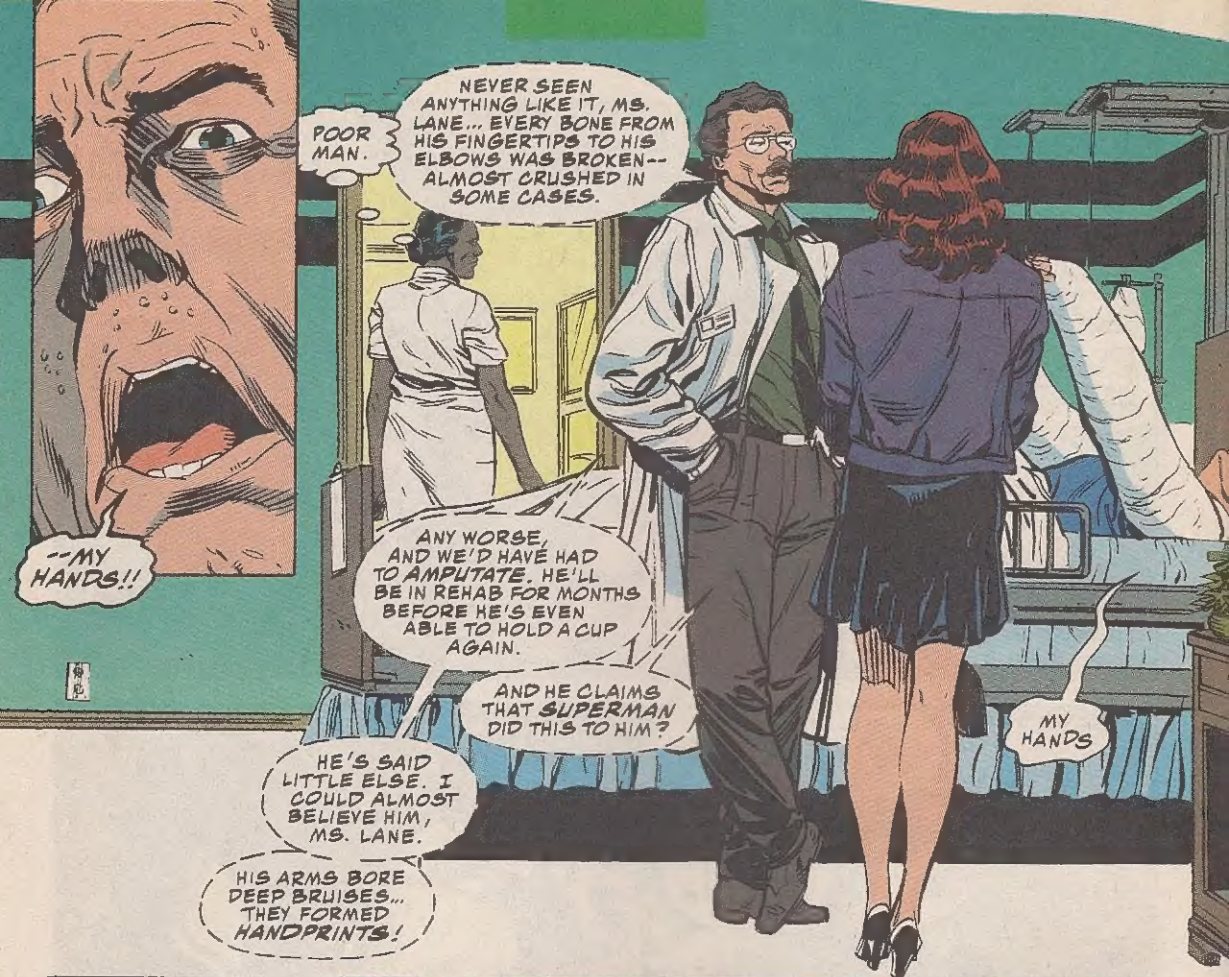
Y-YOU'RE THE ONE THEY TALKED ABOUT ON CHANNEL 7! THE ONE WHO... WHO KILLED THE SKI-MASK MURDERER! *
I'VE DEALT WITH A NUMBER OF TRANSGRESSORS. WHAT I DID TO THEM WAS MEANT AS A WARNING.
TOO BAD YOU DIDN'T PAY BETTER ATTENTION.
NOW I'LL HAVE TO MAKE AN EXAMPLE OF YOU AS WELL.
H-H-HEY, WAIT A SECOND! I'M NOT LIKE THAT! I MEAN, THE CREEP WHO ATTACKED THAT WOMAN... SURE, HE DESERVED TO DIE!
B-BUT I'M JUST A BURGLAR!
* LAST ISSUE.

I'M NON-VIOLENT! I DON'T CARRY A GUN... I'VE NEVER HURT ANY-ONE IN MY LIFE!
Y-YOU WOULDN'T KILL A GUY... JUST FOR CRACKING A SAFE...
...WOULD YOU?
THERE ARE MANY FORMS OF VIOLENCE.

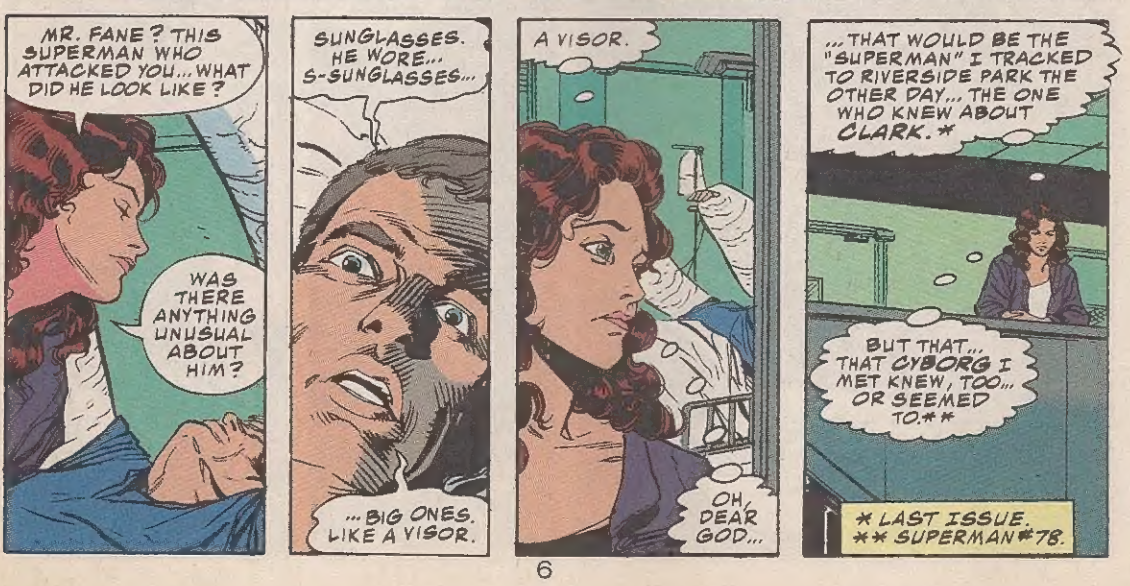

WHUMP!
YOU MAY NOT HAVE CAUSED PHYSICAL HARM, BUT YOUR CRIMES HAVE HURT MANY PEOPLE.

PLEASE ... DON'T KILL ME.
I WON'T. BUT I WILL MAKE CER-TAIN THAT YOU DON'T TRY THIS AGAIN.

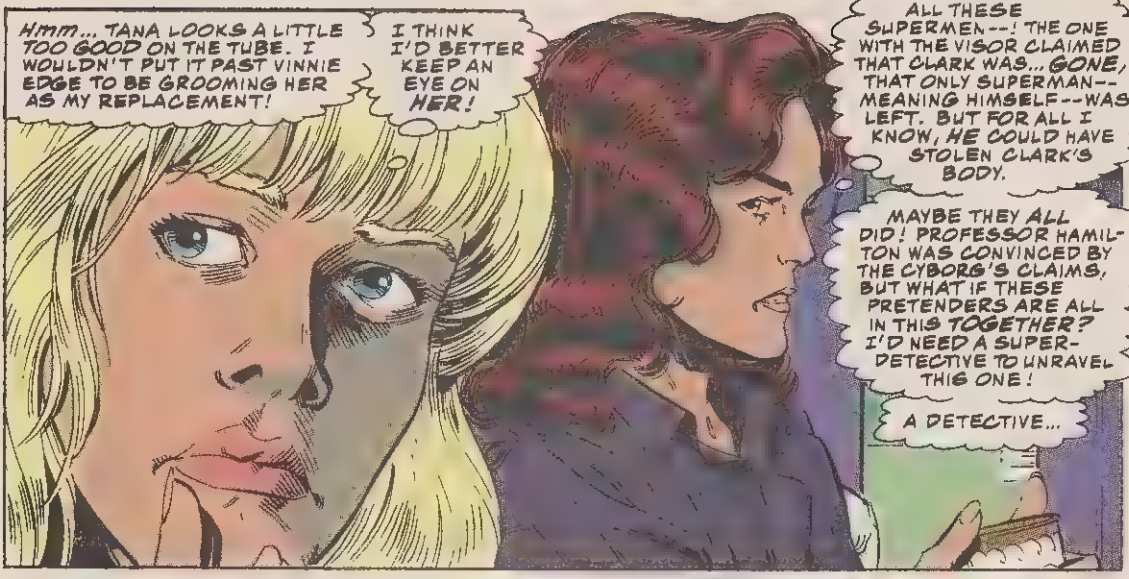

WHAT'RE YOU--? NO! NOT THAT! NOT--


--MY HANDS!!
POOR MAN.
NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT, MS. LANE... EVERY BONE FROM HIS FINGERTIPS TO HIS ELBOWS WAS BROKEN--ALMOST CRUSHED IN SOME CASES.
ANY WORSE, AND WE'D HAVE HAD TO AMPUTATE. HE'LL BE IN REHAB FOR MONTHS BEFORE HE'S EVEN ABLE TO HOLD A CUP AGAIN.
AND HE CLAIMS THAT SUPERMAN DID THIS TO HIM?
HE'S SAID LITTLE ELSE. I COULD ALMOST BELIEVE HIM, MS. LANE.
HIS ARMS BORE DEEP BRUISES... THEY FORMED HANDPRINTS!
MY HANDS

DOCTOR, AT LEAST FOUR SUPER-POWERED... BEINGS HAVE RECENTLY CLAIMED TO BE THE LATE SUPERMAN.
COULD I ASK YOUR PATIENT SOME QUESTIONS?
YOU COULD TRY, MS. LANE, BUT WE'VE HAD TO GIVE HIM A LOT OF MORPHINE FOR THE PAIN. JUST KEEP IT SHORT... HE NEEDS TO REST.


MR. FANE? THIS SUPERMAN WHO ATTACKED YOU... WHAT DID HE LOOK LIKE?
WAS THERE ANYTHING UNUSUAL ABOUT HIM?
SUNGLASSES. HE WORE... S-SUNGLASSES...
...BIG ONES. LIKE A VISOR.
A VISOR.
OH, DEAR GOD...
...THAT WOULD BE THE "SUPERMAN" I TRACKED TO RIVERSIDE PARK THE OTHER DAY... THE ONE WHO KNEW ABOUT CLARK.*
BUT THAT... THAT CYBORG I MET KNEW, TOO... OR SEEMED TO.**
* LAST ISSUE.
** SUPERMAN #78.

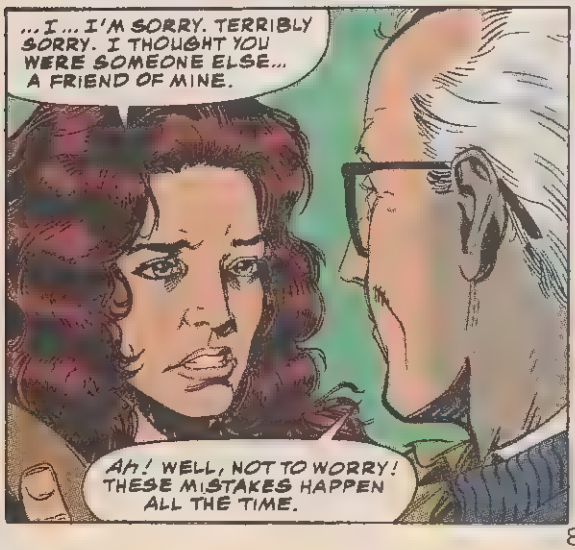
I WISH I COULD BELIEVE THAT CLARK'S REALLY ALIVE. ALL I CAN BE SURE OF IS THAT HIS BODY IS MISSING AGAIN--
--AND FROM WHAT MY SOURCES SAY, THIS TIME THE CADMUS PROJECT ISN'T TO BLAME. I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK NOW...
... EACH OF THE THREE "SUPERMEN" I'VE RUN INTO SO FAR SEEMED A LITTLE LIKE CLARK. MAYBE I SHOULD CALL LANA LANG... I NEED TO TALK TO SOMEONE WHO WOULD UNDERSTAND--!
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU COULD USE THIS!
CAT? TH-THANKS.
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?
INTERVIEWING THE HEAD OF PSYCHIATRY FOR A NEW GBS SPECIAL. THE NETWORK THINKS LI'L CATHERINE JANE GRANT IS READY FOR PRIME TIME.
HOW ABOUT YOU?
INTERVIEWING A SEDATED SAFE-CRACKER WHO HAD HIS ANATOMY REARRANGED BY ONE OF THE NEW SUPERMEN.
SOUNDS PAINFUL.
HOT CO
IT LOOKED PAINFUL, TOO. IT'S ALL SO WEIRD, CAT...
...THESE PRETENDERS RESCUE PEOPLE, THEY STOP CRIMES, THEY DO SO MANY THINGS RIGHT...
... BUT IN OTHER WAYS, THEY'RE SO DIFFERENT FROM SUPERMAN. THEY'RE COLD OR CRUEL--!
GBS
YEAH, TANA, STEEL HAND THOUGHT HE WAS TOUGH--THE BAD GUYS ALWAYS DO-- BUT NOBODY'S TOO TOUGH FOR THIS SUPERMAN!
OR THEY'RE YOUNG EGOMANIACS WITH RAGING HORMONES!
HEY, METROPOLIS, IF YOU'VE GOT A PROBLEM, I'M YOUR MAN... BELIEVE IT!
THANK YOU, SUPERMAN! FOR GBS NEWS, I'M TANA MOON!

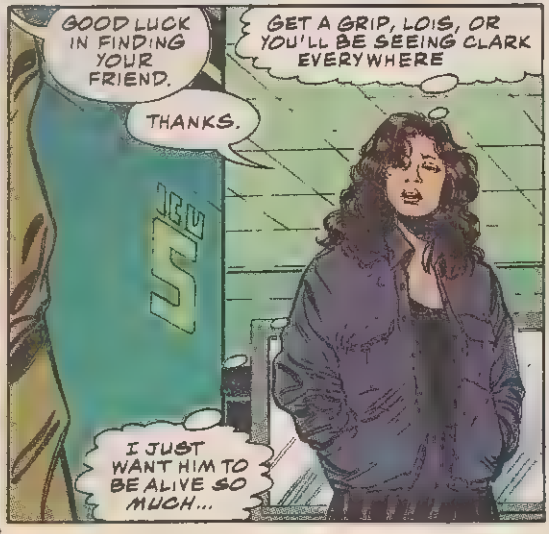

HMM... TANA LOOKS A LITTLE TOO GOOD ON THE TUBE. I WOULDN'T PUT IT PAST VINNIE EDGE TO BE GROOMING HER AS MY REPLACEMENT!
I THINK I'D BETTER KEEP AN EYE ON HER!
ALL THESE SUPERMEN--! THE ONE WITH THE VISOR CLAIMED THAT CLARK WAS... GONE, THAT ONLY SUPERMAN--MEANING HIMSELF--WAS LEFT. BUT FOR ALL I KNOW, HE COULD HAVE STOLEN CLARK'S BODY.
MAYBE THEY ALL DID! PROFESSOR HAMILTON WAS CONVINCED BY THE CYBORG'S CLAIMS, BUT WHAT IF THESE PRETENDERS ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER? I'D NEED A SUPER-DETECTIVE TO UNRAVEL THIS ONE!
A DETECTIVE...

... SUPERGIRL TOLD ME* THAT SHE THOUGHT THE BATMAN KNEW ABOUT SUPERMAN'S DUAL IDENTITY. MAYBE HE COULD HELP ME FIND...
... CLARK?
* IN SUPERGIRL & TEAM LUTHOR #1.

CLARK!!
STOP! PLEASE!!
Eh?

BEG PARDON? WERE YOU SPEAKING TO ME, MA'AM?
OH! N-NO...


...I... I'M SORRY. TERRIBLY SORRY. I THOUGHT YOU WERE SOMEONE ELSE... A FRIEND OF MINE.
AH! WELL, NOT TO WORRY! THESE MISTAKES HAPPEN ALL THE TIME.


GOOD LUCK IN FINDING YOUR FRIEND.
THANKS.
GET A GRIP, LOIS, OR YOU'LL BE SEEING CLARK EVERYWHERE
I JUST WANT HIM TO BE ALIVE SO MUCH...

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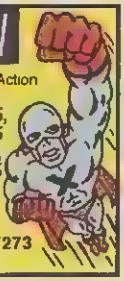

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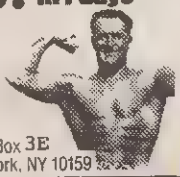

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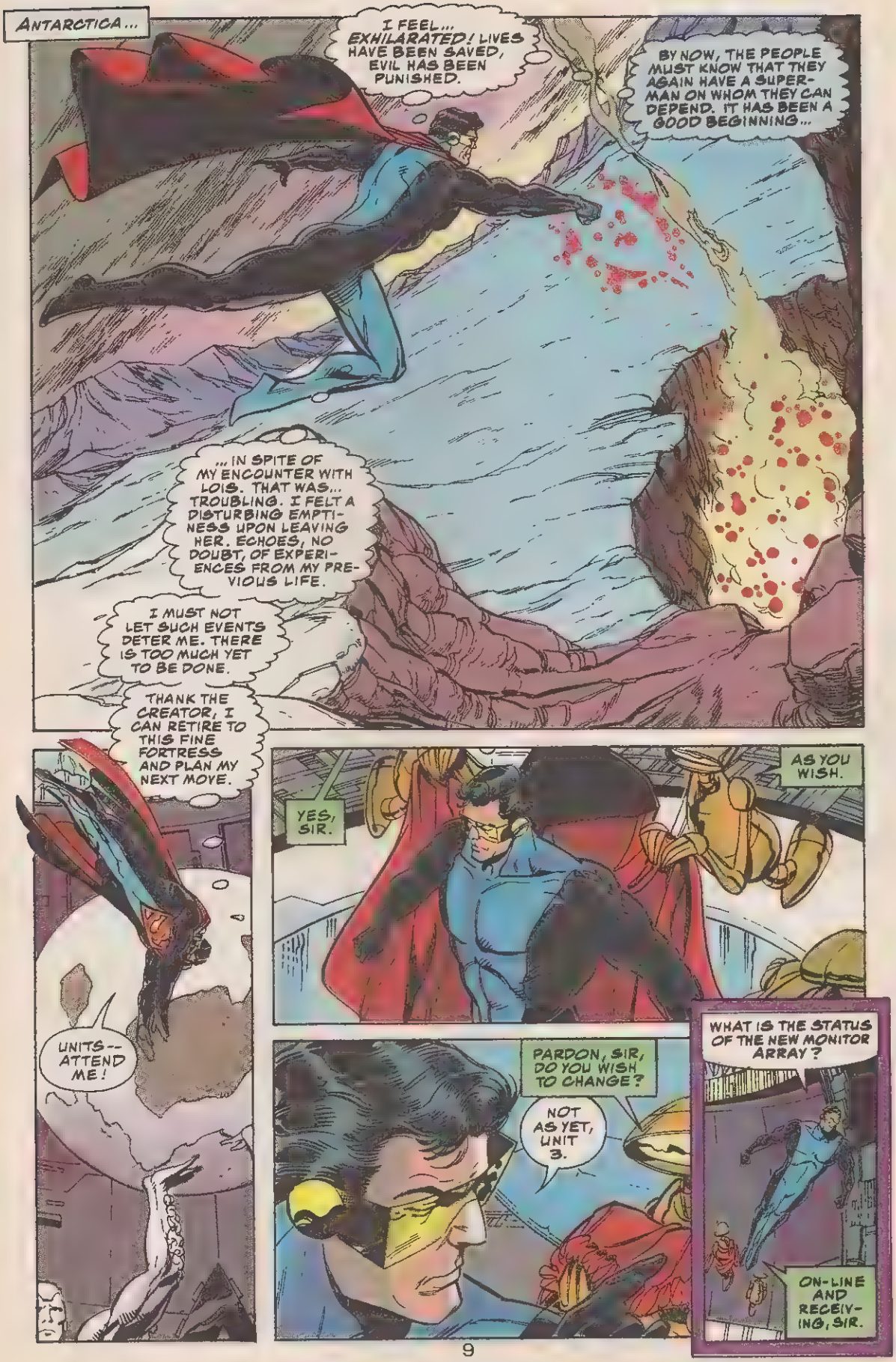
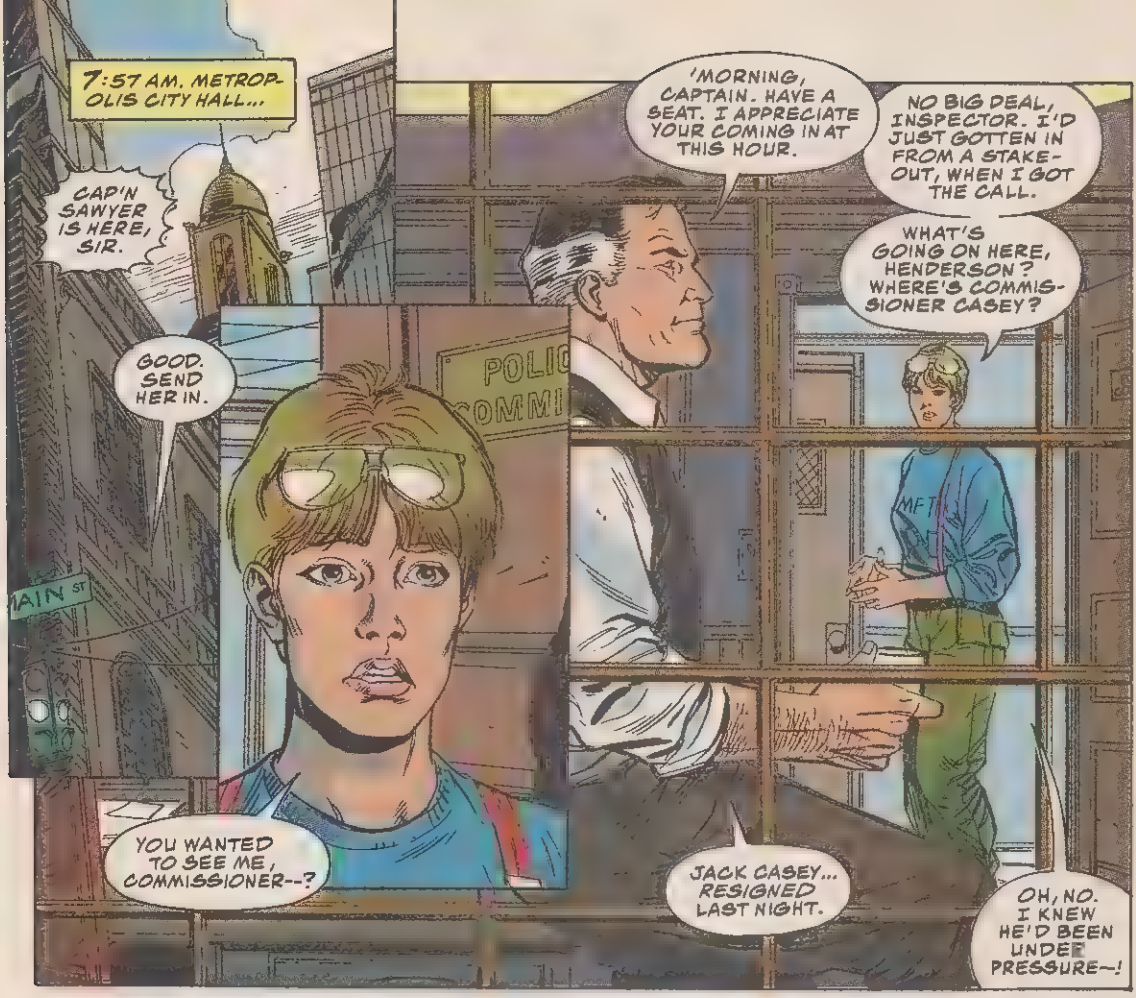
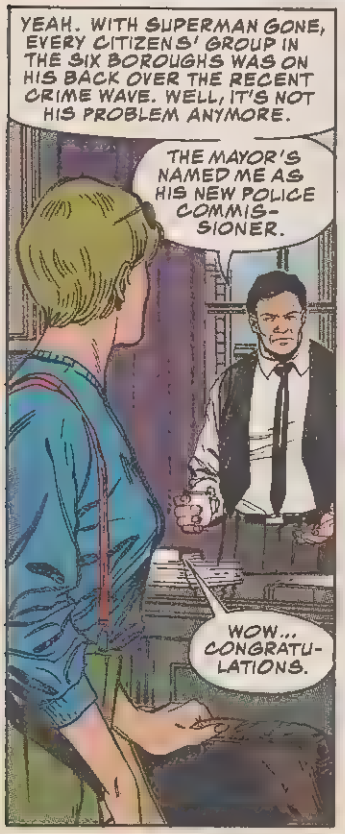

ANTARCTICA...
I FEEL... EXHILARATED! LIVES HAVE BEEN SAVED, EVIL HAS BEEN PUNISHED.
BY NOW, THE PEOPLE MUST KNOW THAT THEY AGAIN HAVE A SUPERMAN ON WHOM THEY CAN DEPEND. IT HAS BEEN A GOOD BEGINNING...
... IN SPITE OF MY ENCOUNTER WITH LOIS. THAT WAS... TROUBLING. I FELT A DISTURBING EMPTINESS UPON LEAVING HER. ECHOES, NO DOUBT, OF EXPERIENCES FROM MY PREVIOUS LIFE.
I MUST NOT LET SUCH EVENTS DETER ME. THERE IS TOO MUCH YET TO BE DONE.
THANK THE CREATOR, I CAN RETIRE TO THIS FINE FORTRESS AND PLAN MY NEXT MOVE.
UNITS--ATTEND ME!
YES, SIR.
AS YOU WISH.
PARDON, SIR, DO YOU WISH TO CHANGE?
NOT AS YET, UNIT 3.
WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE NEW MONITOR ARRAY?
ON-LINE AND RECEIVING, SIR.

HEY, METROPOLIS, IF YOU'VE GOT A PROBLEM, I'M YOUR MAN... BELIEVE IT!
WHAT IN KRYPTON'S NAME IS THIS?!
YOUR NEW MONITOR ARRAY, SIR.
I CAN SEE THAT! I WAS REFERRING TO THOSE SCENES BEING BROADCAST!
WHO ARE THESE OTHERS THAT THEY DARE WEAR THE EMBLEM OF SUPERMAN?!
THEIR ORIGINS ARE UNKNOWN TO US, SIR.
THEY ARE A MOTLEY GROUP... A BOY WHO COULD ALMOST BE A YOUNGER VERSION OF MYSELF, FROM THE LOOKS OF HIM... A CYBORG... AND AN ARMORED MAN OR ROBOT, PERHAPS?
UNIT 12... CONTINUE MONITORING AND COMPILE ALL AVAILABLE DATA ON THESE PRETENDERS. I WOULD KNOW MORE.
BUT FOR NOW, I MUST GO AND BASK IN THE ENERGIES OF--
"--THE REGENERATION MATRIX!"
WHAT DOES ALL THIS MEAN? WHO ARE THESE FALSE SUPERMEN? IF THERE IS VILLAINY IN THEIR MOTIVES--!
MORE POWER! I MUST DRAW MORE POWER FROM THE MATRIX IF I AM TO ENDURE!
SIR? YOU HAVE BEEN WORKING VERY HARD, AND YOU HAVE NOT BEEN LONG REVIVED.
IT WOULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE TO OVER-EXERT YOURSELF SO SOON. YOU SHOULD REST.
PERHAPS YOU'RE RIGHT, UNIT 3. YES, I MUST CONSERVE MYSELF FOR THE CHALLENGES THAT LIE AHEAD.

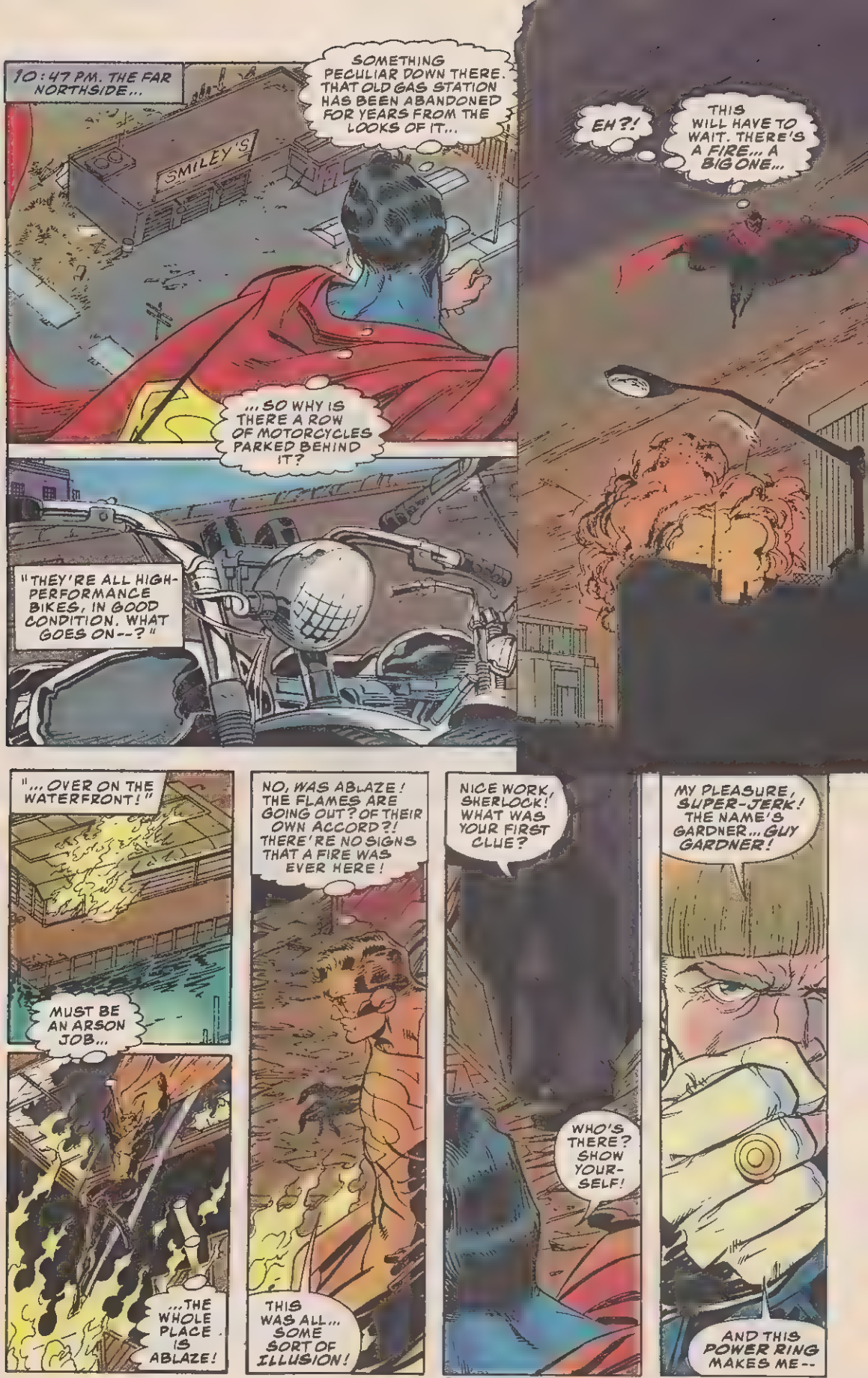

7:57 AM. METROPOLIS CITY HALL...
CAP'N SAWYER IS HERE, SIR.
GOOD. SEND HER IN.
YOU WANTED TO SEE ME, COMMISSIONER--?
'MORNING, CAPTAIN. HAVE A SEAT. I APPRECIATE YOUR COMING IN AT THIS HOUR.
NO BIG DEAL, INSPECTOR. I'D JUST GOTTEN IN FROM A STAKE-OUT, WHEN I GOT THE CALL.
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, HENDERSON? WHERE'S COMMISSIONER CASEY?
JACK CASEY... RESIGNED LAST NIGHT.
OH, NO. I KNEW HE'D BEEN UNDER PRESSURE--!


YEAH. WITH SUPERMAN GONE, EVERY CITIZENS' GROUP IN THE SIX BOROUGHS WAS ON HIS BACK OVER THE RECENT CRIME WAVE. WELL, IT'S NOT HIS PROBLEM ANYMORE.
THE MAYOR'S NAMED ME AS HIS NEW POLICE COMMISSIONER.
WOW... CONGRATULATIONS.

THANKS... BUT GIVEN THE HEAT I'LL BE TAKING, CONDOLENCES MIGHT BE MORE IN ORDER.
MAGGIE, I KNOW THERE'S BEEN SOME FRICTION BETWEEN THE TWO OF US OVER YOUR COMMAND OF THE SPECIAL CRIMES UNIT... MAYBE EVEN SOME HARD FEELINGS...
NEVER ON MY PART, COMMISSIONER. TO TELL THE TRUTH, I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED EXACTLY WHAT THE PROBLEM WAS.
WAS IT BECAUSE OF MY GENDER... OR MY SEXUAL ORIENTATION?

NEITHER ONE! DON'T BE RIDICULOUS! IT JUST ALWAYS STUCK IN MY CRAW THAT AS HIGH-PROFILE AN OUTFIT AS THE S.C.U. WAS HEADED BY A CAPTAIN!
I WOULDN'T CARE IF YOU WERE MALE, FEMALE, OR NEUTER-- BUT YOU HAVE INSPECTORS WORKING FOR YOU, REPORTING TO SOMEONE WHOM TECHNICALLY THEY OUTRANK!

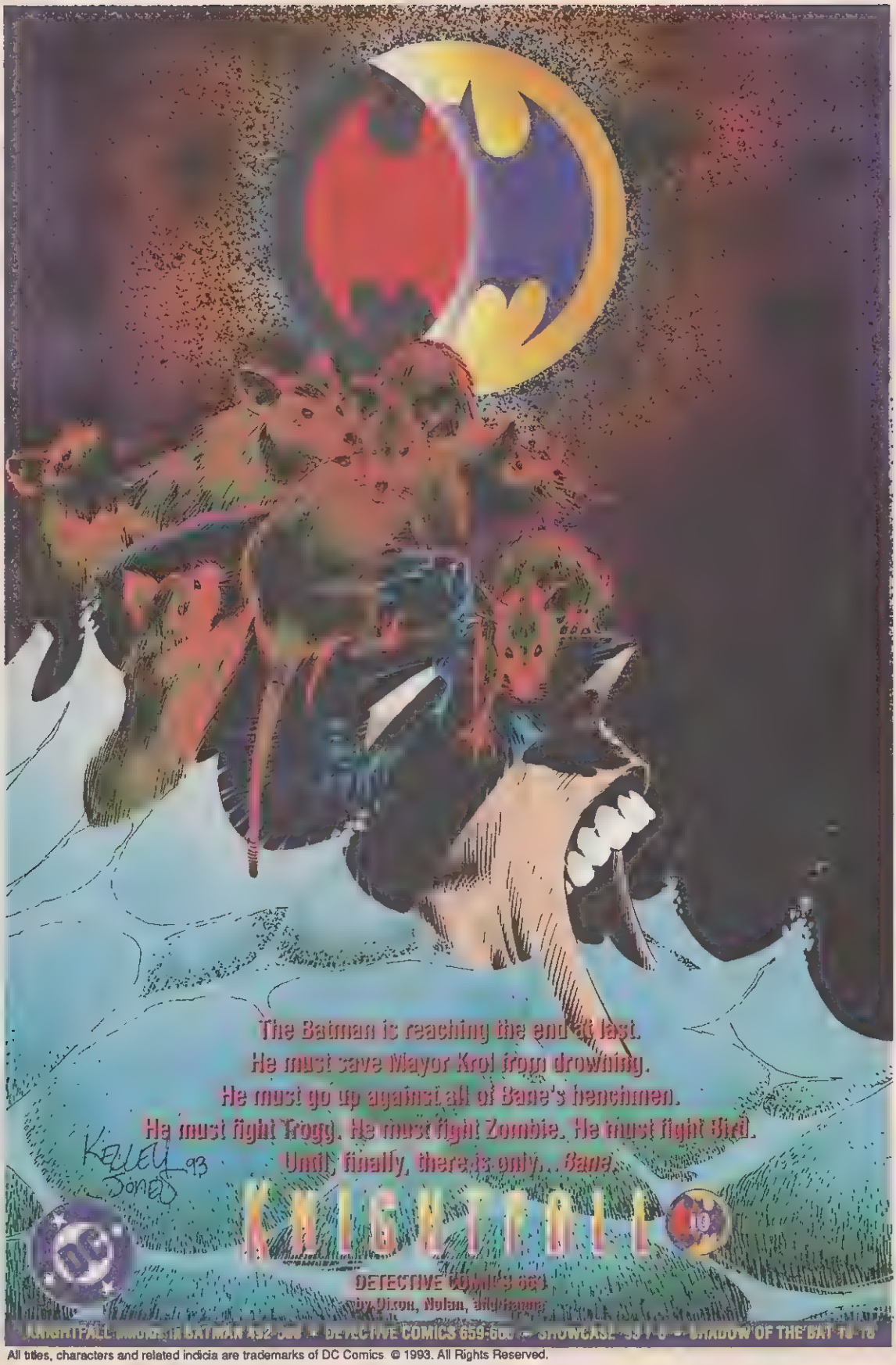
I SEE. GUESS I CAN'T BLAME YOU FOR THAT. IN THE EARLY DAYS OF THE UNIT, I WAS A LITTLE UNCOMFORTABLE ABOUT THAT MYSELF...
...BUT INSPECTOR TURPIN FINALLY PUT ME AT EASE. HE NEVER SEEMED TO MIND ABOUT RANK.
MIND?! THE WAY I HEAR IT, DAN TURPIN THINKS YOU WALK ON WATER! NOT THAT HE'S ALONE. EVERY LAST ONE OF YOUR OFFICERS WOULD GO THROUGH FIRE FOR YOU... THAT SAYS A LOT ABOUT A LEADER.
THIS CAPTAIN THING... MAYBE I SHOULDN'T LET IT BOTHER ME... BUT I STILL DON'T LIKE EXCEPTIONS TO THE CHAIN OF COMMAND. AND NOW I HAVE THE POWER TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT...
...SOMETHING THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN DONE A LONG TIME AGO... INSPECTOR SAWYER!
INSPEC--?! THAT'S A VERY GENEROUS SOLUTION.
IT'S LONG OVERDUE, MAGGIE. YOU'VE BUILT THE S.C.U. INTO A MODEL THAT'S BEING COPIED ALL ACROSS THE COUNTRY.
I HAVE A NEWS CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR TOMORROW... WE'LL MAKE ALL THIS OFFICIAL THEN.
BUT FOR RIGHT NOW, WE HAVE A LOT OF CRAZINESS ON OUR PLATE... AND A LOT OF CONTINGENCIES TO PLAN FOR. EVER SINCE SUPERMAN'S BODY DISAPPEARED--
--THE CULTISTS WHO WORSHIP HIM HAVE BEEN ATTRACTING MORE AND MORE FOLLOWERS.
I KNOW, AND THERE'S ALREADY BEEN A SCHISM WITHIN THE ORIGINAL GROUP. IF THE BODY ISN'T FOUND SOON, THINGS COULD TURN UGLY.
TELL ME ABOUT IT. AND AS IF THAT WEREN'T ENOUGH--WE HAVE TO DECIDE WHAT TO DO ABOUT ALL THESE BLASTED SUPERMEN!


10:47 PM. THE FAR NORTHSIDE...
SMILEY'S
SOMETHING PECULIAR DOWN THERE. THAT OLD GAS STATION HAS BEEN ABANDONED FOR YEARS FROM THE LOOKS OF IT...
...SO WHY IS THERE A ROW OF MOTORCYCLES PARKED BEHIND IT?
"THEY'RE ALL HIGH-PERFORMANCE BIKES, IN GOOD CONDITION. WHAT GOES ON--?"
EH?!
THIS WILL HAVE TO WAIT. THERE'S A FIRE... A BIG ONE...
"...OVER ON THE WATERFRONT!"
MUST BE AN ARSON JOB...
...THE WHOLE PLACE IS ABLAZE!
NO, WAS ABLAZE! THE FLAMES ARE GOING OUT? OF THEIR OWN ACCORD?! THERE'RE NO SIGNS THAT A FIRE WAS EVER HERE!
THIS WAS ALL... SOME SORT OF ILLUSION!
NICE WORK, SHERLOCK! WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST CLUE?
WHO'S THERE? SHOW YOURSELF!
MY PLEASURE, SUPER-JERK! THE NAME'S GARDNER... GUY GARDNER!
AND THIS POWER RING MAKES ME--

--A ONE-MAN SUPERMAN REVENGE SQUAD!!
YEAH! WHO NEEDS THE $#%!! GREEN LANTERN CORPS... OR THE JUSTICE LEAGUE?!!
JUST SET 'EM UP, AN' OL' GUY CAN KNOCK 'EM DOWN -- NO PROBLEM!
OKAY, "SUPER-SHADES," YOU WANT SOME MORE? HUH?
'SHADES?
HAH! I KNOCKED HIM RIGHT INTO THE HARBOR!
S'POSE I'D BETTER FISH FOUR-EYES OUTTA THE DRINK, 'FORE HE DROWNS ON ME!
ONCE I WRING 'IM OUT AN' HANG 'IM UP TO DRY FOR THE METRO COPS, I CAN GO AFTER THOSE OTHER FRAUDS. THIS'LL BE ONE DOWN AN' THREE TO GO.
FUNNY, THERE'S NO SIGN OF 'IM.
HOPE THE CURRENTS HAVEN'T CARRIED 'IM OUT TO SEA.
NAW, MORE LIKELY MY RING-PUNCH DROVE HIM RIGHT DOWN INTO THE...
...MUCK.

GYEEESH!
THA' WUZ SOME PUNCH!
'F I HADN'T HAD MY RING-AURA UP, IT WOULDA TAKEN MY HEAD CLEAN OFF! FOR A FRAUD, HE PACKS A LOTTA POWER!
SUPERMAN COULD'VE HIT ME THAT HARD... MAYBE... BUT HE NEVER DID. HECK, EVEN LOBO NEVER HIT ME THAT HARD!
FTOOM
GARDNER!!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOU!
BTOK
YOW!

KER-RACK!
WHOA!
THIS SUCKER'S--
--TOUGH!
THE REST OF THIS WORLD MAY HAVE TO PUT UP WITH YOU-- BUT SUPERMAN DOES NOT!
AND I WILL NOT!
GOT A SHORT FUSE, TOO... THIS COULD GET INTERESTIN'...
... BUT I CAN'T LET 'IM KEEP ME ON THE DEFENSIVE.
YOU TALK A GOOD FIGHT, SHADES--
-- BUT I'M BETTIN' THAT THIS SHINING KNIGHT CAN PIN YOU TO THE WALL!
HEY--!
YOU LOSE!



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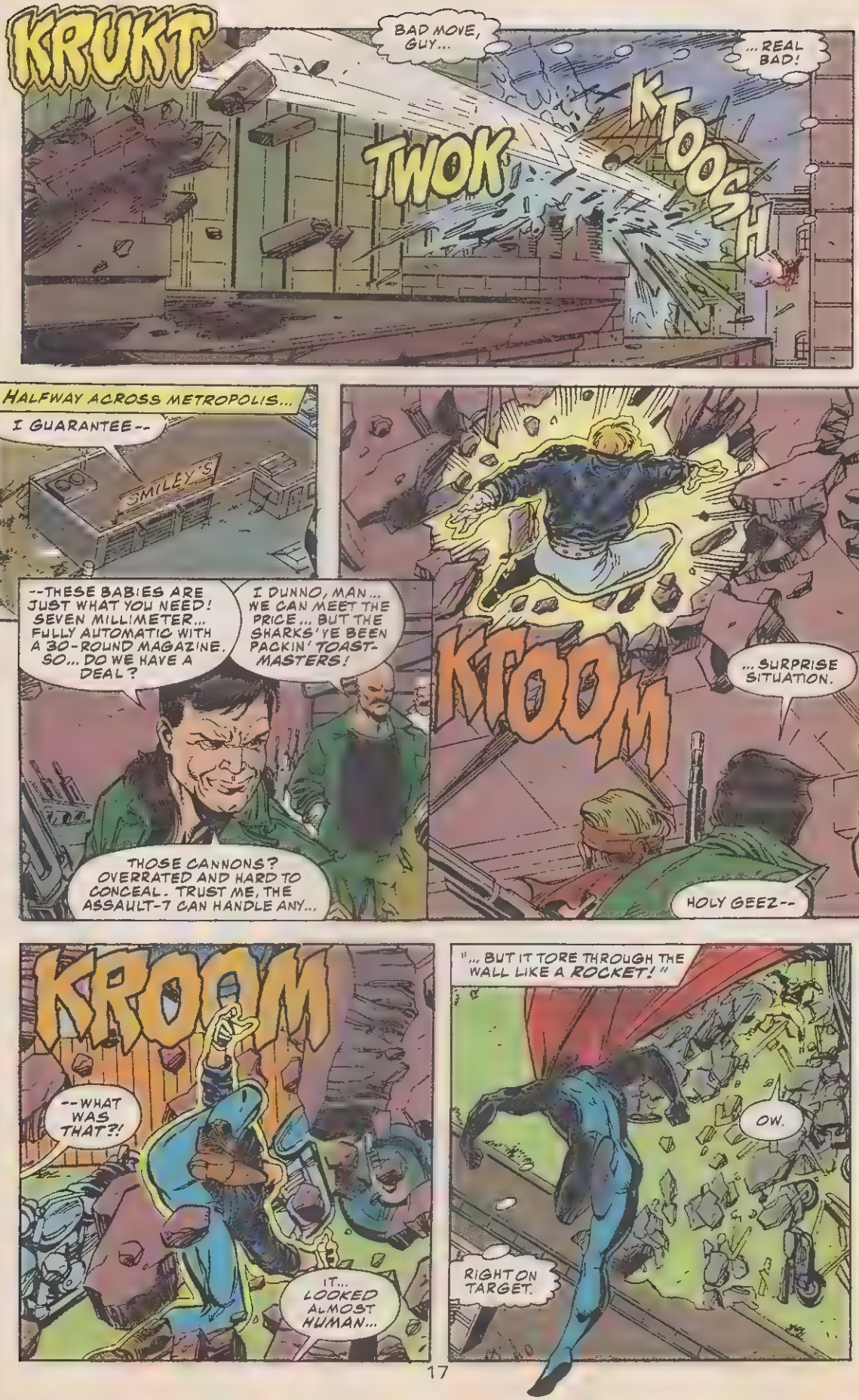
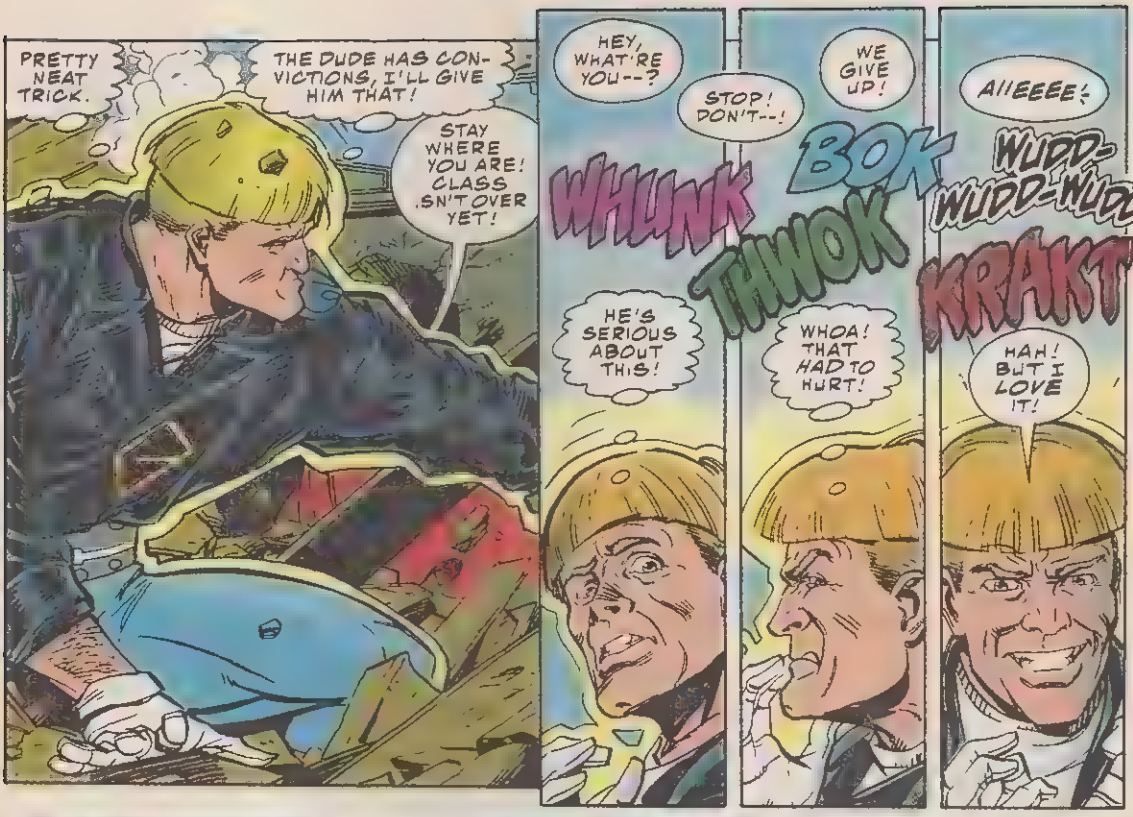
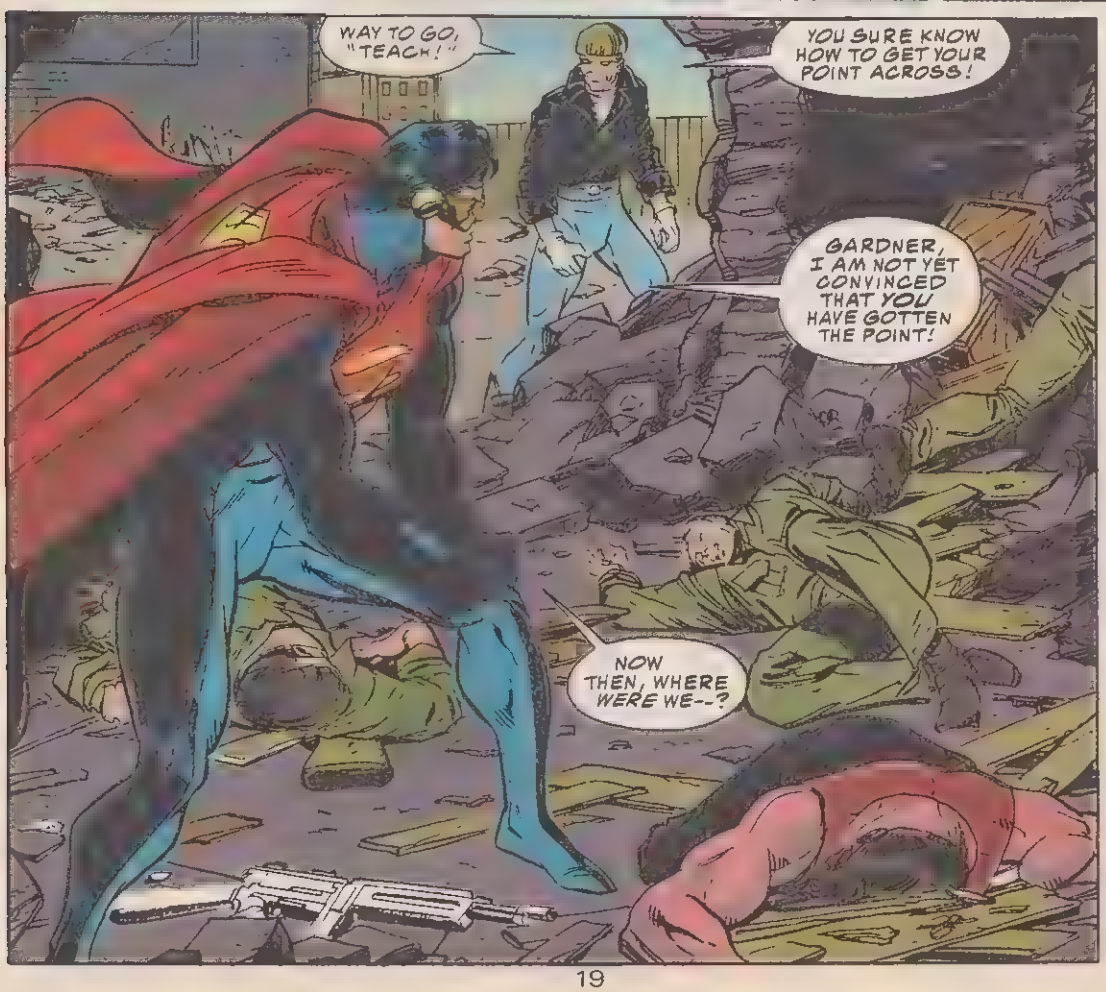
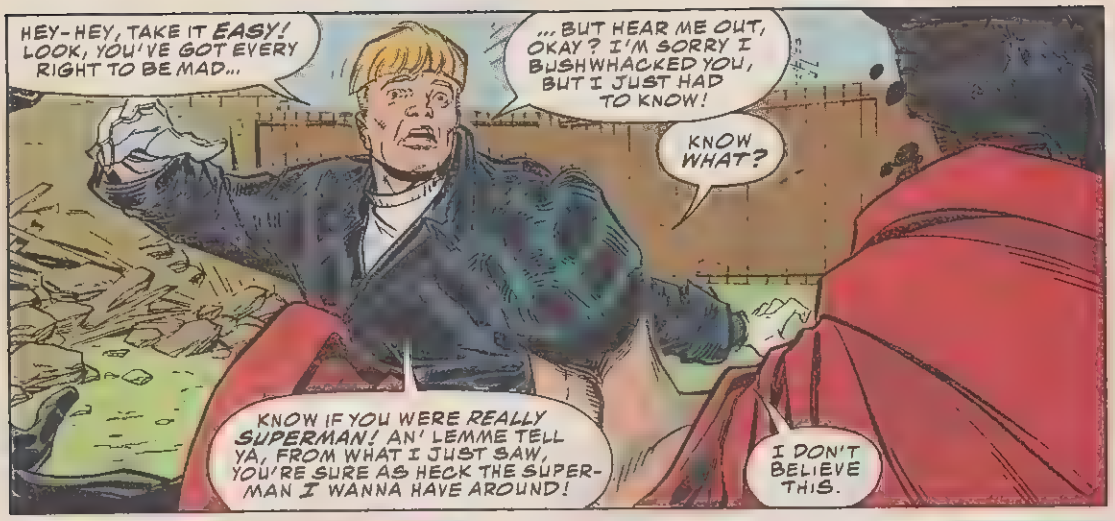
THE REIGN OF THE SUPERMEN™ IS UPON US
JURGENS BREEDING
SUPERMAN #79

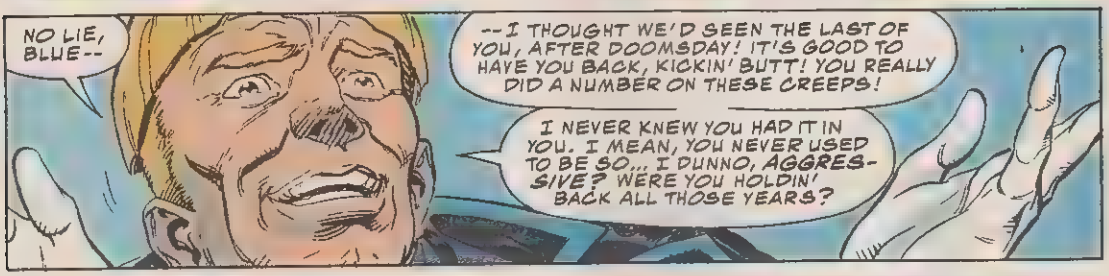

KRUKT
BAD MOVE, GUY...
... REAL BAD!
TWOK
KTOOSH
HALFWAY ACROSS METROPOLIS...
I GUARANTEE--
SMILEY'S
--THESE BABIES ARE JUST WHAT YOU NEED! SEVEN MILLIMETER... FULLY AUTOMATIC WITH A 30-ROUND MAGAZINE. SO... DO WE HAVE A DEAL?
I DUNNO, MAN... WE CAN MEET THE PRICE... BUT THE SHARKS'VE BEEN PACKIN' TOAST-MASTERS!
THOSE CANNONS? OVERRATED AND HARD TO CONCEAL. TRUST ME, THE ASSAULT-7 CAN HANDLE ANY...
KTOOM
... SURPRISE SITUATION.
HOLY GEEZ--
KROOM
--WHAT WAS THAT?!
IT... LOOKED ALMOST HUMAN...
"... BUT IT TORE THROUGH THE WALL LIKE A ROCKET!"
OW.
RIGHT ON TARGET.

NOW, BEFORE YOU FORCE ME TO CAUSE ANY FURTHER DAMAGE, I WANT ANSWERS!
WHY THE SET-UP? WHY DID YOU ATTACK ME?
$*#%!! IT'S A COUPLE OF SUPER-COPS!
AN' THEY TRASHED OUR BIKES!!
WASTE 'EM!!
WATCH YOUR BACK, STUPID!
PTOW-POW-POW-PTOW
GUNS?!
THERE STILL ARE FOOLS USING GUNS ...IN MY CITY?!
'FRAID SO, ACE. WHAT'RE YA GONNA DO ABOUT IT?
TEACH THEM A LESSON.
WE CAN'T BE MISSIN' 'IM-- NOT AT THIS RANGE!
HOLY $%@*!! IT'S ONE OF THOSE NEW SUPERMEN!
WHICH ONE?
THE REAL ONE!
WHA--?!
THOSE GUNS... DROP THEM!
MY A-7--!
DO AS HE SAYS!

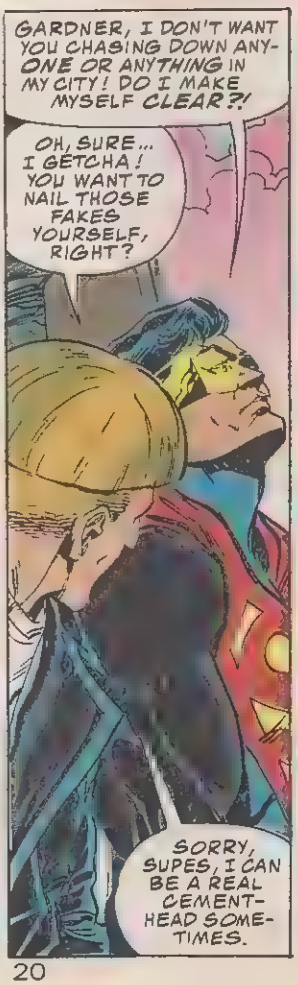

PRETTY NEAT TRICK.
THE DUDE HAS CONVICTIONS, I'LL GIVE HIM THAT!
STAY WHERE YOU ARE! CLASS ISN'T OVER YET!
HEY, WHAT'RE YOU--?
STOP! DON'T--!
WE GIVE UP!
AIIEEEE!
WHUNK
BOK
THWOK
WUDD-WUDD-WUDD
KRAKT
HE'S SERIOUS ABOUT THIS!
WHOA! THAT HAD TO HURT!
HAH! BUT I LOVE IT!

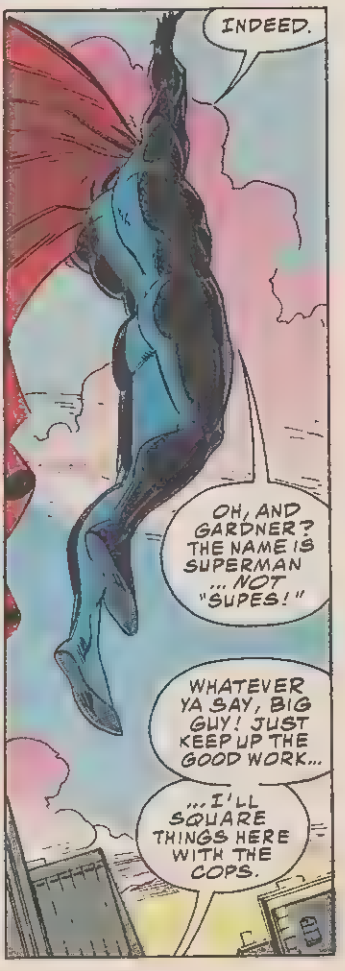

WAY TO GO, "TEACH!"
YOU SURE KNOW HOW TO GET YOUR POINT ACROSS!
GARDNER, I AM NOT YET CONVINCED THAT YOU HAVE GOTTEN THE POINT!
NOW THEN, WHERE WERE WE--?


HEY-HEY, TAKE IT EASY! LOOK, YOU'VE GOT EVERY RIGHT TO BE MAD...
...BUT HEAR ME OUT, OKAY? I'M SORRY I BUSHWHACKED YOU, BUT I JUST HAD TO KNOW!
KNOW WHAT?
KNOW IF YOU WERE REALLY SUPERMAN! AN' LEMME TELL YA, FROM WHAT I JUST SAW, YOU'RE SURE AS HECK THE SUPERMAN I WANNA HAVE AROUND!
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS.


NO LIE, BLUE--
--I THOUGHT WE'D SEEN THE LAST OF YOU, AFTER DOOMSDAY! IT'S GOOD TO HAVE YOU BACK, KICKIN' BUTT! YOU REALLY DID A NUMBER ON THESE CREEPS!
I NEVER KNEW YOU HAD IT IN YOU. I MEAN, YOU NEVER USED TO BE SO... I DUNNO, AGGRESSIVE? WERE YOU HOLDIN' BACK ALL THOSE YEARS?

HOLDING BACK? PERHAPS. I HAVE BEEN THROUGH MANY CHANGES.
YEAH, I GUESS DYIN' AND COMIN' BACK WOULD MAKE YA SEE THINGS DIFFERENTLY!
HEY, LUCKY THING I CAME CRASHIN' IN ON THESE HOODS, HUH?
LUCK HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT. I'D NOTICED SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS ABOUT THIS PLACE EARLIER.
YA MEAN ...YOU THREW ME OVER HERE DELIBERATELY? THAT WAS BRILLIANT! YOU ARE DEFINITELY THE MAN!
THIS SURE MAKES THINGS EASIER ...NOW I ONLY HAVE THREE PHONIES TO CHASE DOWN!


GARDNER, I DON'T WANT YOU CHASING DOWN ANYONE OR ANYTHING IN MY CITY! DO I MAKE MYSELF CLEAR?!
OH, SURE... I GETCHA! YOU WANT TO NAIL THOSE FAKES YOURSELF, RIGHT?
SORRY, SUPES, I CAN BE A REAL CEMENT-HEAD SOMETIMES.


INDEED.
OH, AND GARDNER? THE NAME IS SUPERMAN ...NOT "SUPES!"
WHATEVER YA SAY, BIG GUY! JUST KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK...
...I'LL SQUARE THINGS HERE WITH THE COPS.

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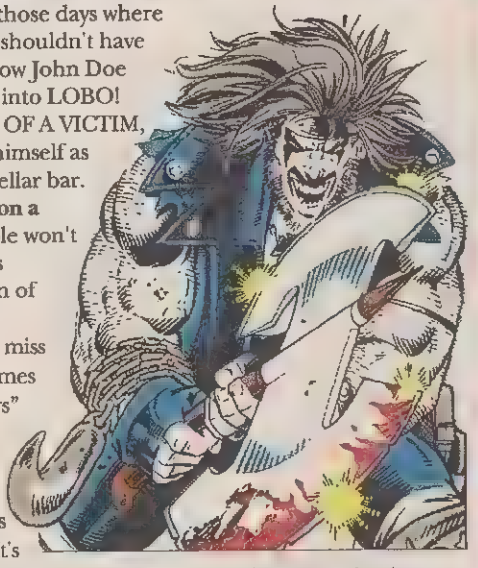
VICTIMIZING LOBO

Ever have one of those days where you feel you shouldn't have gotten out of bed? Guess how John Doe must've felt the day he ran into LOBO!

In LOBO: PORTRAIT OF A VICTIM, Doe meets the Main Man himself as Lobo lays frag to an interstellar bar. To top it off, Lobo's there **on a date**! Boy, what some people won't do to impress a woman. It's psycho fun in the beatdown of the century.



Kids, you won't have to miss out on the fun! This one comes **without** the "Mature Readers" label! Go for broke and get twisted with the Main Man and hope that a certain wedge-haired mutant comes walking through the door. It's poundin' a-plenty for everyone in this slugfest you won't wanna miss. As a matter of fact, get two: you might wanna trash one for the frag of it!*

** "Frag" is a trademark of Lobo. Any bastich saying it without express, written permission will get his fraggin' face handed to 'im!*

Do you have superpowers?

Break open a door with your bare hands? Soar above the clouds? Maybe not, but there are many of you who have superpowers but don't notice it. You could get together with friends and form your own superteam!

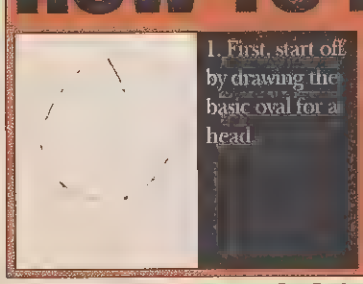
- ☐ Have you even been on a train or bus and noticed that time went by faster if you fell asleep? Or, have you even gone to bed, only to wake up seemingly minutes later, yet hours have passed?
- ☐ Have you ever stood in any line, only to have the one you just got off move quicker?
- ☐ Have you ever reached into your coat pocket and found money that wasn't there before?
- ☐ Have friends ever called you seconds before you were about to call them? Or, has a snowstorm cancelled school the day of a big exam?

Then you have superpowers. Harness them for good! Be careful never to use your extraordinary abilities against mere normal humans. But be careful: flying, and other such powers are make-believe and should never be tried, unless you're dreaming.

DC BULLETS

- On our regular Friday excursion a few weeks back, Editors **Kevin Dooley** and **Rob Simpson**, Assistants **Ruben Diaz** and **Frank Pittarese**, along with inker **José Marzan** and a few others went to the *Rocky Horror Picture Show!* It was quite a moment seeing Rob 'de-virginized!' All of you who haven't been to "Rocky" would be classified as "virgins." Rob's initiation consisted of the audience *en masse* screaming out expletives that **cannot** be repeated here!
- They just can't get enough of DC people on the tube! Those of you in the Philly area might have caught BATMAN colorist **Adrienne Roy** on *A.M. Philadelphia*, a local talk show. And if you did, you got a chance to see Adrienne's gorgeous tattoos! One thing's for sure: all the colors on the test pattern were correct!
- **Art Young**, one of our VERTIGO editors in England, has just welcomed aboard a new assistant! **Tim Pilcher** will be keeping Art company all those grueling hours hanging out with our overseas chaps like **Grant Morrison**, **Peter Milligan** and **Duncan Fegredo.**
- All of you into video games will be excited to know that following the successful *Superman* and *Batman Returns* games, talks are under way for **Titans**, **Flash** and **Ragman** video games!

HOW TO DRAW: GUY GARDNER



Lobo by Val Semeiks and John Dell, Guy Gardner by Joe Staton and Terry Beatty

DCU Safety Tip #2 When buying polybagged comics, be advised that failure to open them will eventually result in a "collector's item" bag of dust!

RESPONDING TO A CALL FROM GUY GARDNER OF THE JUSTICE LEAGUE, METRO POLICE LAST NIGHT ARRESTED A BAKERLINE GANG ALLEGEDLY INVOLVED IN A DRUGS-FOR-WEAPONS SWAP.
GARDNER, A FORMER GREEN LANTERN, REFUSED CREDIT FOR THE BUST, SAYING THAT "SUPERMAN, THE REAL ONE, DID THE JOB..."
POLICE DO NOT CROSS
IT WAS SUPERMAN, AWRIGHT! BIG GUY... CAPE, 'S' ON 'IS CHEST, GOLD SHADES... HE WAS LIKE A MANIAC! HE NEARLY KILT SOME OF THE GUYS!
CITY OFFICIALS ARE REPORTEDLY DISTURBED OVER THE VIOLENT ACTIONS OF THIS MASKED SUPERMAN WHO IS ONE OF FOUR--!
EXCUSE ME... I'VE JUST RECEIVED WORD THAT THE NEW COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, WILLIAM HENDERSON, IS ABOUT TO MAKE A STATEMENT.
WE NOW GO LIVE TO CITY HALL...
CITIZENS REACT WITH OUTRAGE--AND RIGHTLY SO--WHEN THEIR POLICE USE EXCESSIVE FORCE. THE BRUTALITY OF THIS SELF-PROCLAIMED "SUPERMAN" IS NO LESS AN AFFRONT TO PUBLIC DECENCY!
I HAVE TODAY INSTRUCTED INSPECTOR MARGARET SAWYER OF THE SPECIAL CRIMES UNIT TO GIVE THE HIGHEST PRIORITY TO STOPPING THIS REIGN OF TERROR. INSPECTOR--?
WE WILL NOT TOLERATE VIGILANTE JUSTICE IN METROPOLIS!
I KNEW THE REAL SUPERMAN, AND HE WOULD NEVER HAVE RESORTED TO THE RECKLESS MAYHEM THAT IS BEING PRACTICED IN HIS NAME.
HEY... ALL I CAN SAY IS... IF THE MAN I MET WASN'T THE REAL SUPERMAN, THEN HE OUGHTA BE!
SO HE GOT TOUGH WITH A BUNCH OF CREEPS...

...SO WHAT? IT'S NOT LIKE THEY DIDN'T HAVE IT COMIN'!
OKAY, MAYBE HE LOST HIS TEMPER A LITTLE...
...WHO HASN'T, HUH? BESIDES, AFTER ALL HE'S BEEN THROUGH, HE'S ENTITLED!
"CEMENT-HEAD" DOESN'T BEGIN TO DO HIM JUSTICE. THE PUREST OSMIUM ISN'T AS DENSE!
IT COULD BE UNFORTUNATE THAT HE HAS MADE HIMSELF MY GREATEST PUBLIC ADMIRER!
SIR, DO YOU WISH TO CHANGE?
WHAT?! OH, YOU MEAN--!
YES, I BELIEVE I SHALL.
THIS SHIELD HAS LONG STOOD FOR JUSTICE. IF TOO MANY CLAIM IT...
...MISUSE IT... WHAT WILL IT STAND FOR THEN?
UNTIL THIS MOMENT, MY ACTIONS FELT ABSOLUTELY RIGHT. BUT... I DID LET MY ANGER AT GARDNER GET THE BETTER OF ME.
I TOOK IT OUT ON THOSE LESS CAPABLE OF DEFENDING THEMSELVES. AND NOW GARDNER CHEERS ME ON.
THAT ALONE IS REASON TO REFLECT, TO QUESTION WHAT I HAVE DONE.
PERHAPS THERE IS A BETTER WAY...
FOUR SUPERMEN WALK THE EARTH, BUT WHO IS THE HERO TRUE? THE ASTOUNDING ANSWER BEGINS TO UNFOLD IN THE VERY NEXT ISSUE OF ACTION COMICS!
IT'S SUPER-HISTORY IN THE MAKING!

RE:ACTION

DC COMICS
1325 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019

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Dear Superkillers:

The art in ACTION COMICS #684 was excellent. I was disturbed when I heard about the death of Superman, and I thought that Superman could only be killed or badly hurt by Kryptonite. I like the way you actually showed how Doomsday had enough intelligence to make the connection with the commercial and the road sign leading to Metropolis. I especially like the way you kept Supergirl away from the fight by having Lex II tell her they need a backup plan.

The cover was dynamic. It really conveyed the toughness of trying to stop Doomsday.

Jeremy "Doomsday" Horn
Belleville, IL

*****

Dear Mike and Jennifer:

"Doomsday is Near!" was another exciting chapter in the Doomsday storyline. I have to admit that when I first heard you were planning to do a six-issue-long battle, I had my doubts. Would you be able to keep the readers' interest for that long? Would the battle remain consistent in quality, or would it just degrade into a mindless slugfest? Fortunately, the Doomsday story has been anything but disappointing. The action has kept me on the edge of my seat, and it shows no sign of letting up. Also, you've still managed to fit in the regular supporting cast without having to slow down the story's pace. Good job!

I have to say, though, that ACTION #684 did address a few questions that I've been wondering about since Doomsday first appeared several weeks back. Who is he? How did he get so powerful? Who locked him up in an underground cage in Ohio? Why is he mindlessly destroying everything in his path? I hope that once Doomsday's rampage is ended, someone will take the time to investigate the origins of this monster. Don't keep us in the dark, guys. I'm sure plenty of people are also wondering the same things that I am.

Whew! Now that that's over with, I'd like to say that this has been one of the best issues of ACTION I've ever read. I especially liked Art Thibert's cover.

Ben Herman
New Rochelle, NY

*****

Dear Jennifer:

It's amazing. I don't think I've ever seen so much excitement over a single storyline as I have for "Doomsday." My local comics store didn't even bother to put ACTION #684 on the shelf because all the copies they had ordered were already reserved. Thankfully I had already asked them to save a copy of each issue of the "Doomsday" storyline for me, but many others weren't so lucky. If ever there was a time for reprints or a collected edition, this is it.

The cover itself on this issue was stunning. Art Thibert should be congratulated on an outstanding job, as should Jackson Guice and Denis Rodier, who did a great job on the inside. And Roger Stern should be proud of continuing the intense scripts we've seen in the other "Doomsday" issues. Like I said, I don't think I've ever seen people this excited over a single storyline, and the creative teams on each SUPERMAN book should take a bow for working so hard and pushing their creativity so high. The really big thing that struck me about this issue, aside from the intense fighting, was Luthor's attitude towards Superman. Like the average person who doesn't read the SUPERMAN line, Lex thinks Superman's invincible, and that nothing can go wrong for the big guy. Whenever anyone asks me about Superman dying in SUPERMAN #75, and I tell them that Doomsday is going to off Supes, they quizzically ask me why it isn't Lex Luthor doing the job. People expect Luthor to be the one to finally do Supes in. It will be quite interesting to see Lex's reaction when he learns his lifelong dream of revenge against Superman has been denied.

Finally, after seeing the endless destruction these past few issues, I wouldn't want to be in Metropolis next issue judging by the last panel. "Look, up in the sky! It's a bird, it's a plane, it's DOOMSDAY?!?"

See ya in seven.

James Evans
Madison, WI

*****

Dear Mike:

So Doomsday is headed for Metropolis. You have not tried too hard to hide what is going to happen. Jimmy Olsen is going to become Turtle Boy, defeat Doomsday and save Superman. After this happens the Legion of Super-Heroes will travel back in time and offer him honorary membership.

Seriously, as usual Roger Stern did a great job with ACTION #684. I normally hate all-fight issues, but you guys had enough going on outside of the Superman fight to make for a good read. For example: Luthor thinking what we readers are thinking: "He's always survived..." What with the Cadmus Project getting in the way of the fight and Lois trying to remain objective, this was a really exciting comic.

Keep up with the fine work in ACTION COMICS, no matter who the star is.

Tim Madden
Broomfield, CO

*****

Dear Team:

This day will come for us all. Sooner or later. If we are ready or not. And we will have no chance to avoid it. Real life is no comic—reality does not care if a body is found or not. We do not have the possibility of switching our bodies or minds. The end is final—at least the way we react to death. Always trying to avoid it. Using modern science to escape from its claws.

But the agony a dying person possibly endures is often nothing in comparison to the pain the friends who have been left behind undergo. In this case it does not matter that it is only a fictional character; what matters is the bond many readers have with Superman. He has been here for years before most of us were born, and probably will still exist much longer after we are gone. But he was always here when we needed him. He always provided us with a way to escape from reality for a while when we most needed it. He helped us come to maturity. Helped us develop the love of life. Showed us what it meant to do the right thing. And last but not least, entertained us with action-packed stories. Thanks to all the imaginative writers, talented artists, good letterers, fantastic colorists and caring editors, we got the legend built up. Thank you all!

Kashif Husain
Schwalbach, Germany

*****

Dear Clark:

Well, here I am again, ready and willing to offer my opinions on your continuing battle against Doomsday as told in ACTION COMICS #684. Oh boy! What an adventure this one was. I love the different ways the various writers chose to inform us, the readers, about what has gone before. With Jerry Ordway in ADVENTURES #497 it was a straight narrative using the character of Mitch, and here in ACTION we see Roger Stern use the

tried and tested "News Bulletin" approach.

Right, first let's have a round of applause for Art Thibert; Mr. Thibert, stand up and take a bow. What an action-packed cover Art treated us to, crammed full of detail and power, right to the edges. Then on to the inside, where Mr. Stern dealt me a powerful blow. Let me explain. In previous letters I have suggested that Doomsday could be from Project Cadmus. But if we look at page 16, Westfield and his guards don't seem to know what happened when Doomsday landed on the Project. So either Cadmus has nothing to do with Doomsday, or they don't watch much TV down there. Maybe Roger is trying to lead us astray with a clever little plot twist. On the interior art we had Messrs. Guice and Rodier; well, what a team these two make.

Finally, what surprised me the most about Doomsday was the fact that he possesses some sort of intelligence. With previous parts of the storyline we assumed that Doomsday was a hulking and brainless monster, but since we now know he has the ability of speech, can remember and connect to what he sees and hears, this makes him a more calculating and menacing danger. Now that we know Doomsday's destiny lies in Metropolis, could this mean he is connected to Lexcorp or S.T.A.R. Labs? I can't wait to find out, but since I'm not due my next comics until the 12th of this month, I have to suffer in silence.

Colin H. Craig
County Armagh
Northern Ireland

*****

Dear ACTION:

If only Superman knew that his efforts bordered on futility. Perhaps he can stop Doomsday, but at what cost?

The cost will, of course, be death, as anyone with any contact with the outside world will tell you. Is the legacy of the Man of Steel truly to end, the big red "S" to be laid to rest? Huh. And I thought that killing Barry Allen was a big step. This definitely takes the cake.

The Man of Tomorrow is soon to become the man of days past, and you know, the more I see of Doomsday, the more I wonder if Superman ever stood a chance at all.

Merlin the Magnificent
Oderton, MD

*****

Dear Mike:

Just finished ACTION COMICS #684 and wanted to share some thoughts on the "Doomsday" storyline. Truth to tell, I'm really kind of disappointed. All it is is one long battle. This is standard for that other company, but I expect something more from you people. It's not that anyone is out of character or anything, it is just that in part one Doomsday destroyed; in part two Doomsday destroyed and everyone fought him; in part three Doomsday destroyed and everyone fought him; in part four—well, you get my point. It's become predictable and, dare I say, a bit boring. And let's face it, Doomsday isn't much of a character. No charm, no wit, no humor, no personality, no known motivation, and no dialogue. Kind of like a bulldozer with legs.

Instead of creating what I believe is supposed to be a force of nature for Superman to battle, I would have preferred that you used what you already have. Perhaps an all-out battle of wit and brawn between Superman and Lex. Could you just imagine the look on Lex's face to actually have a plan succeed—to finally kill Superman? He probably would be so shocked he wouldn't know what to do next.

Despite my criticisms, I have been a big fan of the SUPERMAN titles for more than a decade. I have been especially impressed these last few years and eagerly anticipate what I'm sure will be the usual strong characters and emotional honesty in the "Funeral for a Friend" storyline.

Now the question is what happens next? I noticed that the titles aren't listed in my order form after "Funeral for a Friend," but I haven't actually heard the word "cancellation." It was also revealed just before the Doomsday storyline that the Linear Men have the power to bring back the dead. (Hmmmm, makes one wonder, doesn't it?) Needless to say, I await your next move.

Steve Solomon
Los Angeles, CA

*****

Dear Roger and Mike:

Sneaking in a little public safety tip, eh? I noticed the guy taking a scenic drive in the stratosphere, thanks to Doomsday's pitching arm, was wearing his shoulder harness. Admirable. Couldn't see if he had his lap belt too, but let's give him the benefit of the doubt. Safety counts. Most accidents occur within 25 miles of home and that's about how high overhead he was before Superman informed him exactly why his car felt like it was riding on a cloud.

What Doomsday lacks as a conversationalist, he more than makes up for in determination. He doesn't seem to know exactly where he's going but sure is in a big hurry to get there. Maybe the destruction is intended to leave a clear trail from his point of origin, should he want to head back, in case he forgot his wallet in his other containment suit?

Too bad there wasn't anything in his size (Monster: extra large) at Lex-Mart. Along with a new attitude, he could definitely stand a change of clothing.

Loved the "Attention, Lex-Mart shoppers..." bit. This storyline, of necessity, is pretty grim, so this rare laugh was a pleasant break from the carnage. Too bad, with these three panel pages, you didn't have room for any blue light specials: tremendous savings, for a limited time only, on all the things you need every day—bandages, splints and do-it-yourself wills. Also, for the next five minutes, a nice opportunity to pick up extra condolence cards at half price. Never know when they might come in handy (though several chapters from now seems a fairly safe bet).

From the devastation in the Lex-Mart lot, we know Doomsday is not off for a job interview in the valet parking field. Or, if he is, best not to count on too many tips.

You did provide us with one subtle clue to his past. He can read English, but just barely. So, at the very least, we know he's a high school graduate. Maybe that's where he's heading—off to college to earn his debris?

Joe Frank
Scottsdale, AZ

Speaking of debris...we've got some lying around the office here at Superman Central—so we hope you enjoy your hard-earned (forthcoming) Baldy and your Platinum copy of SUPERMAN #75.

—Jennifer Frank
No Relation

NEXT WEEK: Superman vs...Superman?! It happens in Suicide Slum when the youngest Superman and the Man of Steel come face to face in SUPERMAN: THE MAN OF STEEL #23, written by Louise Simonson, pencilled by Jon Bogdanove and inked by Dennis Janke.

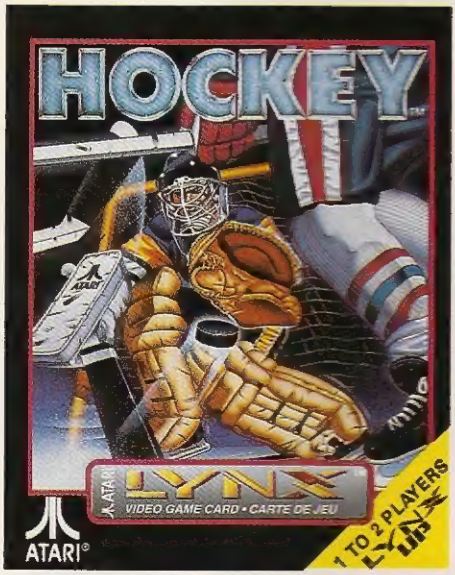
IN TWO WEEKS: Clark Kent is still missing—will Ron Troupe now become the hottest reporter at the Daily Planet? Seems like it when he scoops an interview with the Cyborg Superman. SUPERMAN #79 is written and laid out by Dan Jurgens, with finished art by Brett Breeding.

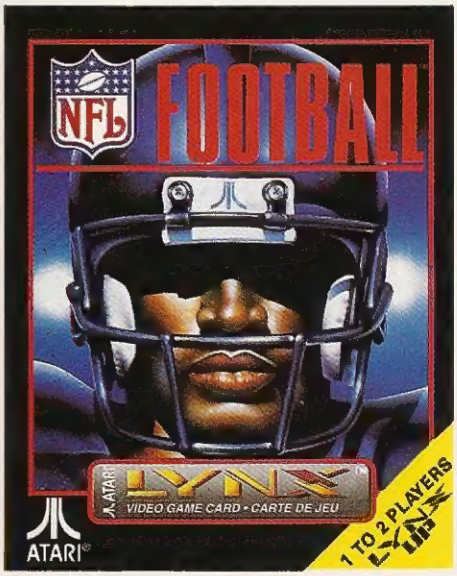
IN THREE WEEKS: Lex Luthor may have a lot of foresight, but you can bet he didn't see this coming—sparks fly between Supergirl and Superboy...er, Man...as she attempts to bring him to Lexcorp for Luthor. ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #502 is written by Karl Kesel, with Tom Grummett's pencils and Doug Hazlewood's inks.

IN ONE MONTH: The Last Son of Krypton goes up against the Man of Steel for the indisputable right to be the one and only Superman. ACTION COMICS #689 is written by Roger Stern and drawn by Jackson Guice and Denis Rodier.

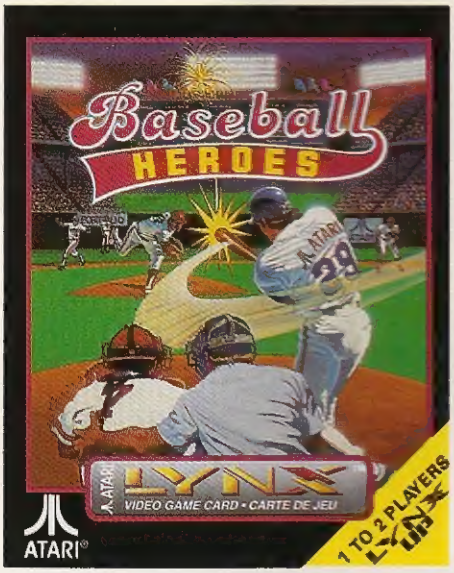
This month's cover was sketched by Ed Hannigan, pencilled by Kerry Gammill, inked by Jackson Guice, lettered by Bill Oakley, colored by Denis Rodier...and purchased by YOU!

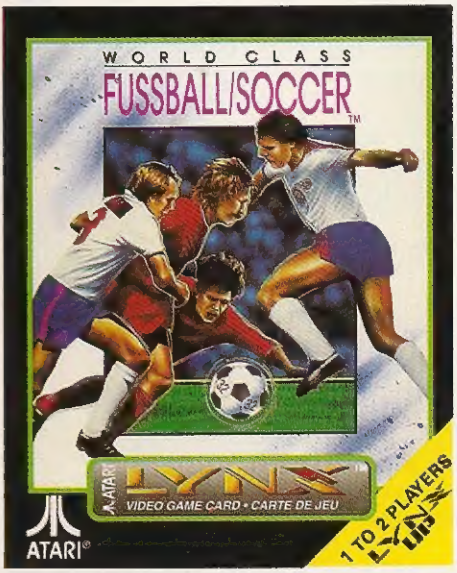
WHY LYNX?





Great Sports.





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